(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment does not compile any such information.

National Policy on Older Persons

2760. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formualted a National Policy on Older Persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy is already being implemented;

(d) whether the policy envisages setting up of more old age homes across the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have formulated the National Policy on Older Persons which was announced in January, 1999, with the primary objective of encouraging individuals to make provision for their own as well as spouse's old age, to encourage families to take care of their older family members, to enable and support voluntary and non governmental organization to supplement the care provided by the family, to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people, to provide health care facility to the elderly and to promote research and training facilites to train geriatric care givers and organizers of services for the elderly, to create awareness amongst elderly persons to develop themsleves into fully independent citizens.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) This Ministry is implementing a Scheme, namely, Integrated Programme for Older Persons under which financial assistance to Non Governmental Organizations for setting up of old age homes is given. Under this scheme, there is no restriction in setting up more old age homes across the country.

Scholarships to SC/ST and others

2761. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally assisted schemes for setting up hostel facilites and for providing scholarships for pre-matric and post-matric students, both boys and girls, belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Castes and Other Backward Castes in various States/UTs;

(b) the projected expenditure of each scheme, the Central share released/remains to be released in repsect of the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether similar schemes are available for Under-graduate/Post-graduate, professional courses and research scholars belonging to SC/ ST; and

(d) if so, the details and guidelines in this regard and allocations made during the last three years to each State/UT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Following schemes are being implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes:

(a) Hostels

(i) Hostels for SC boys

(ii) Hostels for SC girls

(iii) Hostels for ST boys

(iv) Hostels for ST girls

(v) Hostels for OBC boys and Girls